

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN, BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@EXCHANGELABS.COM)
To:
CC:
Date: 11/19/2013 4:18:39 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 11/19/13

OPA Daily Digest for 11/19/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.) 10/29/13. Recommendation for an EPA position. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Scrrips - Lawan Hamilton/Mark Greenblatt – 11/8/13 – Inquiry regarding the status of the Doe Run consent agreement. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

McPherson Sentinel (Kan.) - Jeremy Webster – 11/19/13 -- Questions regarding carbon pollution standards and stakeholder sessions. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 11/19/13 – Questions about the West Lake Landfill Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KRCG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Group Petitions DNR to Issue Hog Farm Water Permit - 11/19/13 - An environmental advocacy group says it is delivering a petition with 5,000 names to the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission insisting the state crack down on water pollution that comes from large livestock farms.

<http://www.krcg.com/news/local/Group-Petitions-DNR-to-Issue-Hog-Farm-Water-Permit-232480941.html>

Muscatine Journal - Guest Commentary: Cover crops are a conservation bargain - 11/18/13 - Not only will cover crops help achieve the Iowa NRS goals, but producers will also retain healthy, fertile topsoil for generations to come. http://muscatinejournal.com/news/opinion/columns/cover-crops-are-a-conservation-bargain/article_d0e21175-e5c3-5cd8-9dbb-9479c9dc129d.html

Daily Iowegian, Centerville, Iowa - Rathbun Lake watershed receives grant - 11/19/13 - The Watershed Improvement Review Board recently approved 10 applications totaling \$2,307,554 in grants to support projects that will improve water quality or reduce flooding in the state.

<http://www.dailyiowegian.com/local/x537113042/Rathbun-Lake-watershed-receives-grant>

KMA Radio, Shenendoah, Iowa - American Soybean Association reacts to EPA proposal - 11/18/13 - The American Soybean Association expressed concern that the biomass-based diesel levels for 2014 and 2015 would be reduced below the amount actually produced in 2013. http://www.kmland.com/ag/american-soybean-association-reacts-to-epa-proposal/article_79ee33a2-5091-11e3-af17-0019bb30f31a.html

Farm Futures - Legislators Oppose EPA's Clean Water Act Rulemaking - 11/18/13 - Legislators suggest EPA's rulemaking could expand CWA legislation to include ponds and other small bodies of water. <http://farmfutures.com/story-legislators-oppose-epas-clean-water-act-rulemaking-0-105105>

Iowa Land Improvement Contractors Association (release) - New EPA Rule Could Mean the End of Coal-Fired Power Plants in the U.S. - 11/17/13 - I believe the administration's energy policies are designed to reduce the U.S. to a third world economy. Blaming fossil fuels for climate change and extreme weather events has not been proven. <http://ialica.com/2013/11/17/new-epa-rule-could-mean-the-end-of-coal-fired-power-plants-in-the-u-s/>

Associated Press - UN Climate Chief Calls on Coal Industry to Change - 11/18/13 - The top U.N. climate diplomat on Monday told the coal industry it should leave most of the world's remaining coal reserves in the ground and start investing in renewable energy sources. <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/un-climate-chief-calls-coal-industry-change>

The Daily Iowan, Iowa City - Planned solar farm moves forward with sustainability plans - 11/19/13 - Harnessing environmental forces through the use of wind and solar farms isn't a new idea, but one Iowa organization has larger plans than ever before. <http://www.dailyiowan.com/2013/11/19/Metro/35768.html>

Wichita Business Journal - SandRidge Energy to drill 100 Kansas wells in 2014 - 11/19/13 - SandRidge Energy Inc. plans to spend \$350 million and drill 100 new horizontal wells in Kansas next year, a move a company executive said shows the company's commitment to the Mississippian Lime formation in the state. <http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2013/11/19/sandridge-energy-to-drill-100-kansas.html>

National Hog Farmer - NCCR Comments on EPA's RFS Proposal - 11/18/13 - National Council of Chain Restaurants says: "The Environmental Protection Agency's adjustment to the Renewable Fuel Standard volume mandate is an implicit recognition that the ethanol mandate is out of sync and out of touch with current market realities." <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/environment/nccr-comments-epa-s-rfs-proposal>

National Hog Farmer - USDA Comments EPA Ethanol Plan - 11/18/13 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has issued the following statements on EPA's proposal of 2014 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS): "The Obama Administration remains committed to the production of clean, renewable energy from homegrown sources, and to the businesses that are hard at work to create the next generation of biofuels. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/environment/usda-comments-epa-ethanol-plan>

National Hog Farmer - Cheaper Corn Fuels Hog Industry Growth - 11/18/13 - If fed to hogs, corn is worth an estimated \$6.85 per bushel when the profits from hog production are assigned to the value of corn, says Chris Hurt, Purdue University Extension economist. That's good to know for grain farmers who are seeking new ways to add value to corn. <http://nationalhogfarmer.com/business/cheaper-corn-fuels-hog-industry-growth>

AgWeb - Why EPA Ethanol Proposal Might Be Moot in 2014 - 11/18/13 - While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed cutting the mandate for renewable fuels such as ethanol, that might be a moot point for 2014, experts tell the U.S. Farm Report Market Roundtable. Livestock margins have become more profitable and there's a big supply of corn. http://www.agweb.com/article/why_epa_ethanol_proposal_might_be_moot_in_2014_NAA_Nate_Birt/

Gristmill - Eight more U.S. coal generators bite the dust - 11/19/13 - The Tennessee Valley Authority plans to shut down eight of its coal-burning generating stations in Alabama and Kentucky. Absent from the seemingly positive news, however, is any mention of renewables. <http://grist.org/news/eight-more-u-s-coal-generators-bite-the-dust/>

Brownfield Ag News - Corn at more than 3 year lows on EPA decision - 11/18/13 - Corn hit 38 month lows on commercial and fund selling. Last week's EPA decision on the RFS continues was the big bearish factor and everyone's expecting a record U.S. crop this year. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/11/18/corn-3-year-lows-epa-decision/>

E&E News PM - Agency falls short on security classification -- IG - 11/18/13 - U.S. EPA is failing to properly follow national security information classification standards, according to a report released today by the agency's internal watchdog. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059990648/>

Environmental Working Group - Subsidies and Ethanol Mandate Fuel Massive Dust Storms - 11/19/13 - Dust storms have re-emerged across much of Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas, fueled by the same combination of persistent drought, plowing up fragile land and poor public policy that led to the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. <http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2013/11/subsidies-and-ethanol-mandate-fuel-massive-dust-storms>

ClimateWire - Water and electric utilities can help each other fight against climate impacts -- report - 11/19/13 - Water utilities use a lot of electricity, and electric utilities use a lot of water -- and climate change is set to make a big impact on both these resources. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059990685>

Chemical & Engineering News - Government Cuts Biofuel Targets - 11/19/13 - Amid heavy lobbying from the petroleum industry and manufacturers of biofuels, the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed lowering production targets for biofuels in the U.S. fuel mix. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/web/2013/11/Government-Cuts-Biofuel-Targets.html>

Chemical & Engineering News - Building Low-Cost Solar Cells On Plastic - 11/19/13 - Materials Science: With low-temperature methods, researchers can fabricate thin-film solar cells on plastic, possibly leading to flexible devices. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/web/2013/11/Building-Low-Cost-Solar-Cells.html>

Quad-City Times - Hyundai to sell hydrogen-powered SUV in 2014 - 11/19/13 - For years, the joke in the auto industry was that a mass-produced car that runs on hydrogen was always a decade away. That will change next year when Hyundai starts selling a Tucson SUV powered by a hydrogen fuel cell. http://qctimes.com/business/hyundai-to-sell-hydrogen-powered-suv-in/article_cd216800-026c-57b0-af37-1cd6b9142410.html

New York Times - Slowdown in Carbon Emissions Worldwide, but Coal Burning Continues to Grow - 11/19/13 - Global emissions of carbon dioxide are slowing somewhat from the rapid pace of the last decade, new figures show, but growth in coal burning continues to outstrip the growth in other forms of energy. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/19/science/slowdown-in-carbon-emissions-worldwide-but-coal-burning-continues-to-grow.html>

Greenwire - EPA permitting seen as high hurdle for carbon capture project - 11/18/13 - On one hand, U.S. EPA is promoting carbon capture and storage technologies for all new coal-fired power plants. On the other -- would-be project developers say -- are confusing, budget-busting permit requirements that hamstringing the technology's development. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059990631>

National Journal - The Environmental Promise Obama Completely Abandoned - 11/17/13 - Five years ago, the administration vowed to regulate coal ash, a toxic power-plant byproduct. Green groups are still waiting. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-environmental-promise-obama-completely-abandoned-20131117>

Politico - U.S. serious on climate, John Kerry tells U.N. summit - 11/19/13 - U.S. officials tried on Monday to assure wary international negotiators who are struggling to lay the groundwork for a global climate change accord that the United States is serious about slashing its greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/11/us-serious-on-climate-kerry-tells-un-summit-100023.html>

Greenwire - EPA permitting seen as high hurdle for carbon capture project - 11/18/13 - On one hand, U.S. EPA is promoting carbon capture and storage technologies for all new coal-fired power plants. On the other -- would-be project developers say -- are confusing, budget-busting permit requirements that hamstringing the technology's development. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059990631>

Midwest Energy News - As ALEC shifts its RPS strategy, state laws favor renewables - 11/18/13 - Numerous schemes to scrap or diminish state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) policies have attracted a lot of national attention this year. Grim media forecasts for RPS policies, and the hefty renewables markets these policies facilitate, were not uncommon. These reports were worrisome to renewables supporters. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/11/19/as-alec-shifts-its-rps-strategy-state-laws-favor-renewables/>

Crain's Chicago Business - What's stronger than nuclear power? Falling electricity prices - 11/19/13 - Add the Quad Cities nuclear power station to the list of facilities Exelon Corp. would consider shutting if wholesale power prices continue to stay low. <http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20131116/ISSUE01/311169983/whats-stronger-than-nuclear-power-falling-electricity-prices>

New York Times (blog) - Examining 'Media's Global Warming Fail' - 11/18/13 - If the New York Times called you up today and said come on in here and orchestrate, be the architect of our [climate change] coverage and we'll give you 20 reporters to do it, what would you have them do, what would you have any news organization do that they're not doing now? <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/11/18/examining-medias-global-warming-fail/>

Domestic Fuel - EPA Proposal Pulls the Rug on Advanced Biofuels - 11/19/13 - According to the Michael McAdams, president of the Advanced Biofuels Association, if the EPA sticks with the 2.2 billion gallons in the final rule, the agency will pull the rug out from underneath the growing advanced biofuel industry. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/11/19/epa-proposal-pulls-the-rug-on-advanced-biofuels/>

Domestic Fuel - Project Aims to Convert Natural Gas to Butanol - 11/19/13 - A new project spearheaded by researchers at Sandia National Laboratories are using their expertise in protein expression, enzyme engineering and high-throughput assays to develop biocatalyst technologies that can convert natural gas to liquid fuel or methane to butanol for transportation. <http://domesticfuel.com/2013/11/19/project-aims-to-convert-natural-gas-to-butanol/>

Blog for Iowa - Tell The Des Moines Register: Stop Promoting Climate Change Denial - 11/19/13 - Many newspapers around the country either frequently run letters to the editor that promote climate change denial, or don't have an explicit policy against doing so. Unfortunately, that includes the paper I read most often — the Des Moines Register. <http://www.blogforiowa.com/2013/11/19/tell-the-des-moines-register-stop-promoting-climate-change-denial/>

BNA - Colorado to Become First State to Regulate Methane Directly From Oil, Gas Operations - 11/19/13 - Colorado is proposing to issue regulations requiring oil and gas producers to detect and regulate methane emissions. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251473&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3j0v4r8&split=0

BNA - Coal Takes Center Stage at UN Climate Talks; Delegates Begin to Debate Three Draft Texts - 11/19/13 - The future of coal as part of the world's energy mix took center stage Nov. 18 at the United Nations climate talks in Warsaw as the World Coal Association convened its annual meeting nearby. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251460&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3j0m7q1&split=0

BNA - Obama Says Higher Oil Output, Natural Gas, Renewables Leading to Energy Independence - 11/19/13 - America is poised to become energy-independent because of increased production of oil in the U.S. as well as natural gas and renewable energy means, President Barack Obama said in his weekly radio address. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251450&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3h3v9n3&split=0

BNA - EPA to Release for Public Comment Draft Strategic Plan Outlining Priorities - 11/19/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency on Nov. 19 will release for public comment its draft strategic plan for fiscal years 2014-2018. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251459&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3j0m5y7&split=0

BNA - EPA Extends Comment Period for Water Quality Rule Reservoir - 11/19/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency said Nov. 18 that it has given the public an additional 30 days to comment on the rule proposing to clarify the regulations governing state and tribal adoption of water quality standards. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251486&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3j7y4v9&split=0

BNA - Water Utilities, Electricity Generators, Governments Must Collaborate, Report Says - 11/19/13 - Water and electric utilities, groups, government must collaborate to manage water and energy in a climate change era, a report by industry professionals, researchers said. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38251466&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3j0q7k7&split=0

Inside EPA - NARUC Weighs Greater State-Federal Efforts To Boost 'Distributed' Power - 11/18/13 - The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is debating a resolution calling for greater state-federal collaboration on policies to spur deployment of "distributed generation" -- decentralized smaller power sources such as solar generators -- to lower costs, cut greenhouse gases (GHGs) and bolster grid resiliency. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/2013/11/19/2453251/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/naruc-weighs-greater-state-federal-efforts-to-boost-distributed-power/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Georgia Research Center Seen As Boosting Utility Water Technologies - 11/19/13 - A new water research program in Georgia run by the electric utility industry is

winning praise from federal energy officials and others who say the effort is the type of project needed to promote more widespread use of innovative technology to reduce water use at power plants and treat the water from new waste streams caused by strict air controls. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201311192453279/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/georgia-research-center-seen-as-boosting-utility-water-technologies/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - SAB Urged To Review Adequacy Of EPA's Basis For NSPS CCS Mandate - 11/18/13 - An EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) work group is asking SAB to review the agency's proposed climate utility rule because of questions about the adequacy of the peer review of certain studies used to justify the rule's mandate for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) at coal-fired power plants. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453257/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/sab-urged-to-review-adequacy-of-epas-basis-for-nsps-ccs-mandate/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - PA Appeals Ruling Requiring Response On Mississippi Nutrient Limits - 11/18/13 - EPA is appealing a court ruling that ordered it to craft a formal response to environmentalists' petition seeking strict new nutrient limits for states in the Mississippi River Basin. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453256/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-appeals-ruling-requiring-response-on-mississippi-nutrient-limits/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - ABA Readies Analysis To Help Clarify Thorny TSCA Preemption Issues - 11/18/13 - The American Bar Association (ABA) is crafting an analysis of court rulings governing preemption of state laws that lawyers involved in the effort hope will clarify thorny legal issues that lawmakers crafting a pending Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform bill should consider if they are able to agree on how to preempt states. <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-11/19/2013/aba-readies-analysis-to-help-clarify-thorny-tsc-preemption-issues/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - Industries Weigh Research To Fight Studies Justifying Stricter PM NAAQS - 11/19/13 - Major industry groups are in the early stages of a push to advance new research into the health effects of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). <http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-11/19/2013/industries-weigh-research-to-fight-studies-justifying-stricter-pm-naaqs/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - As Talks Near, House Plan For New EPA Water Funding Pilot Faces Hurdles - 11/19/13 - Some House lawmakers are preparing to offer a plan for creating a new pilot EPA water infrastructure loan program as part of upcoming talks with the Senate to reconcile the two chambers' competing bills authorizing Army Corps water projects. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453296/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/as-talks-near-house-plan-for-new-epa-water-funding-pilot-faces-hurdles/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Seeks States' Advice To Improve RCRA Corrective Action Investigations - 11/19/13 - EPA is seeking suggestions from state waste managers on how it might use results from a handful of pilot projects it is conducting aimed at improving the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) facility investigations process. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453293/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-seeks-states-advice-to-improve-rcra-corrective-action-investigations/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Coal Group Sees Major Costs In NRDC Climate NSPS Plan - 11/19/13 - A coal industry group is warning of major economic harm if EPA crafts its pending new source performance standard (NSPS) climate rule for existing coal- and natural gas-fired utilities in line with a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) plan. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453290/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/coal-group-sees-major-costs-in-nrdc-climate-nsps-plan/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Aims To Overturn RCRA Program's 'Staid' Image To Justify Funding - 11/19/13 - EPA waste chief Mathy Stanislaus says the agency is looking at ways to bolster the image of the "staid" Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) regulatory program. <http://insideepa.com/201311192453289/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-aims-to-overturn-rcra-programs-staid-image-to-justify-funding/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

12/3/13 – SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

***12/5/13** – RA Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

12/5-6/13 – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/19-20/2013 – Hosting the RMP codes and standards training, Regional Office. Contact Patrick Bustos, 7969.

11/20-21/2013 – Hosting Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Kansas City, Mo. Contact; Jim Callier, 7646.

11/21/2013 – Attending the Missouri Air Conservation Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147.

12/12/2013 – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

12/4-6/13 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

11/21/13 - GovFest Government Business Services Conference, Overland Park, KS. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

11/20-22/13: Oversight of pre-construction activities West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

11/20/13: Public availability session to discuss DOD vapor intrusion investigation St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

WWPD

***11/21/13** - Drinking water enforcement priorities discussion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131

***11/21/13** - Iowa Cattlemen Association meeting, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Stephen Pollard, 7582